



2012-16 Monroe County Annual Implementation Plan

Abstract

Monroe County Office for the Aging (MCOFA) is a governmental organization that is responsible for services to more than 122,000 persons age 60 and older, as well as their informal family caregivers of any age residing in Monroe County. MCOFA is dedicated to:

- 1) Advocating on issues of concern to older persons, family caregivers, and persons with disabilities;
- 2) Allocating federal and state funds for social and nutrition services;
- 3) Ensuring access to a network of long term care services;
- 4) Coordinating activities with other public and private organizations; and
- 5) Assessing the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities and linking them with needed community-based long term care services.

MCOFA prioritizes activities that allow older adults and adults with disabilities to maintain their independence with dignity and places a special emphasis on assistance to frail, low-income, disadvantaged, and minority elders. MCOFA was created in 1973 in response to the 1973 amendments to the Older Americans Act (OAA), which called for the creation of the network of area agencies on aging under Title III resulting in allocation to area agencies on aging to bring structure to the delivery of social and nutritional services to older adults. The OAA and the Monroe County Legislature provide funding to MCOFA that is allocated to provider organizations in accordance with an Area Agency on Aging approved Annual Implementation Plan. This Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) proposes to support either financially or through program development efforts, the following array of services that allow older persons and adults with disabilities to maintain their independence with dignity, and provide access to the entitled benefits and needed services:

- Social Adult Day Care
- Homemaker Chore Services
- Congregate Meals
- Elder Abuse Prevention

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Health Benefits Education
- Home Delivered Meals
- Information & Assistance
- In-Home Respite
- Legal Assistance
- Medication Management
- Family Caregiver Support
- Personal Care
- Public Education
- Resource Advocacy
- Transportation
- Volunteer
- Evidence Based Programing
- Chronic Disease Self-Management

MCOFA has taken part in the development of a comprehensive and coordinated service delivery system that has been facilitated by the Finger Lakes Health System Agency (FLHSA), known as the SAGE Commission. Through partnerships with a diverse array of private and non-profit organizations the SAGE Commission is dedicated to delivering quality services to seniors. While the existing array of services is broad, the system is characterized by a level of demand for assistance among the County's older adult and disabled population that exceeds the supply of most services. This disparity is unfortunate and harmful because of the preventive nature of many MCOFA services. Thus, insufficient or closed services force many older persons to add their names to waitlists, go without needed help, experience avoidable health problems, and seek assistance through more costly and, in some cases, less desirable alternatives.

During the next four years, additional efforts will focus on improving access to needed long term care resources for targeted populations through further development of NY Connects as well as with community planning partnerships with the SAGE Commission. In-home, access and respite services will continue to remain a high priority, as well as exploring opportunities to strengthen other community services, and enhance opportunities for older adults and adults with disabilities to engage in more evidenced based wellness and prevention activities. The previous four year Annual Implementation Plan included stated goals that led to the following activities: Design and implementation of the NY Connects

program, where the resources were provided to train Eldersource care management staff to provide telephone counseling to promote safe long-term care decision-making and education on available aging and disability services in Monroe County.

MCOFA's plan for sustaining and/or increasing senior services will include but are not limited to 1) a survey of the Monroe County service provider network to gauge the best approach to service delivery; 2) reviewing other secondary data sources to identify a system for prioritization of services; and 3) planning scenarios based on a variety of budget circumstances. The data will be used to indicate the overall support for a prioritized approach to maintaining a balanced budget and service delivery system. The 2012-16 AIP budget will be developed based on the assumption that state and federal service funding will likely remain flat. There are no plans for extensive cuts or reduction in senior services.

During the 2012-16 AIP planning period services will be prioritized based on an analysis of data from various sources. Based on the results of the data analysis, MCOFA will make decisions on programs that rank as a lower priority, which may impact budget decisions or identify opportunities for integrated services. This approach, will also allow for a data driven approach if there is additional funding in state aging programs, and/or other federal or private resources to identify opportunities to fill anticipated gaps in senior services. This same data will provide a framework for continued funding to existing programs and services. Likewise, if funding reductions occur, and/or if budget reductions occur during the 2012-16 planning period, the same data will guide reductions.

MCOFA welcomes review and comment on the 2012-16 AIP abstract. Feedback from stakeholders will guide adjustment to some of our original recommendations. MCOFA will work with community stakeholders to identify private resources to supplement the senior programs to maintain an adequate level of service in Monroe County.